

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Withdrawn) A method of providing a yarn or textile product with a desired property which comprises:

contacting a linker molecule comprising two or more carbene generating groups with a yarn or textile product, and a non-linker molecule having a desired property;

activating the carbene generating groups of the linker molecule to cause covalent attachment of the linker molecule to the yarn or textile product and the non-linker molecule, thereby attaching the non-linker molecule to the yarn or textile product by means of the linker molecule, and providing the yarn or textile product with the property of the non-linker molecule.

2. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1, wherein the non-linker molecule is covalently attached to the yarn or textile product in a single reaction step.

Claim 3. (Cancelled).

4. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1, wherein the non-linker molecule is a solvent, a synthetic or natural chemical, a synthetic or natural dye, a synthetic polymer, a biopolymer, a biomolecule, a biologically active molecule, a synthetic or natural vitamin or hormone, or any combination thereof.

5. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1, wherein the non-linker molecule is an enzyme (such as lysozyme), a growth factor, an anti-microbial agent, an antibiotic, a

fungicide, an agent capable of suppressing the proliferation of bacteria or fungi, or any combination thereof.

Claims 6 – 13. (Cancelled).

14. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1, wherein the carbene is thermochemically or photochemically generated.

15. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1, wherein the linker molecule comprises a natural or synthetic polymer, preferably a biopolymer.

16. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 15, wherein the linker molecule comprises a protein, peptide, or polysaccharide.

17. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 15, wherein the linker molecule comprises a dextran-based polymer.

18. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1, wherein the linker molecule comprises a cleavage site which is cleaved under predetermined conditions to release the non-linker molecule or functional group from the yarn or textile product.

19. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 18, wherein the linker molecule comprises a target for a hydrolytic enzyme to allow enzyme-induced, or biosystem-induced release of the non-linker molecule or functional group.

20. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 18, wherein the linker molecule comprises a substrate for an endoglycosidase, or an endopeptidase.

21. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 19, wherein the linker molecule is a dextran-based biopolymer which comprises a target for a dextranase.

Claims 22 – 24. (Cancelled).

25. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1, wherein the yarn or textile product is of natural or synthetic origin, a blend of synthetic yarns, or a blend of natural and synthetic yarns.

Claims 26 – 31. (Cancelled).

32. (Withdrawn) A method of covalently attaching a non-linker molecule having a desired property and/or a functional group having a different desired property to a yarn or textile product, thereby providing the yarn or textile product with the desired property or properties, wherein the method comprises use of a linker molecule comprising two or more carbene generating groups.

33. **(Currently amended)** A yarn or textile product covalently attached, via a **carbene-generating** linker molecule, to a non-linker molecule having a desired property, thereby providing the yarn or textile product with the desired property, wherein the textile product is a cloth, fabric or woven material and the yarn product is a spun thread, and wherein **the linker molecule comprises a cleavage site which is cleaved under predetermined conditions to allow release of the non-linker molecule from the yarn or textile product** ~~covalent attachment of the non-linker molecule to the yarn or textile product is the result of reaction of carbene intermediates provided by the linker molecule with the yarn or textile product and the non-linker molecule.~~

34. **(Currently amended)** A yarn or textile product according to claim 33, wherein ~~covalent attachment of the non-linker molecule to the yarn or textile product is the result of reaction of the linker molecule generates carbenes~~ thermochemically or photochemically to allow covalent attachment of the yarn or textile product to the non-linker molecule generated carbenes provided by the linker molecule.

Claims 35 – 36. (Cancelled).

37. **(Currently amended)** A yarn or textile product according to claim 33, wherein the non-linker molecule is an enzyme, a ~~(such as~~ lysozyme~~[[]])~~, a growth factor, an anti-microbial agent, an antibiotic, a fungicide, an agent capable of suppressing the proliferation of bacteria or fungi, or any combination thereof.

Claims 38 – 52. (Cancelled).

53. **(Currently amended)** A yarn or textile product according to claim 33 ~~[[52]]~~, wherein the linker molecule comprises a target for a hydrolytic enzyme such that the non-linker molecule is released by enzyme-induced, or biosystem-induced release.

Claims 54 – 58. (Cancelled).

59. **(Previously presented)** A yarn or textile product according to claim 33 which is of natural or synthetic origin, a blend of synthetic yarns, or a blend of natural and synthetic yarns.

60. (Previously presented) A composition comprising:

a yarn or textile product according to claim 33; and

a linker molecule, wherein the linker molecule comprises a dextran-based polymer or a cleavage site which is cleaved under predetermined conditions.

61. (Currently amended) A composition comprising a yarn or textile product according to claim 33, having at least one non-linker molecule that is selected from the group consisting of: enzyme, a ~~(such as~~ lysozyme[[]]), a growth factor, an anti-microbial agent, an antibiotic, a fungicide, and an agent capable of suppressing the proliferation of bacteria or fungi.